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# Beldassar Lep



## BACHELOR "STUDIES"



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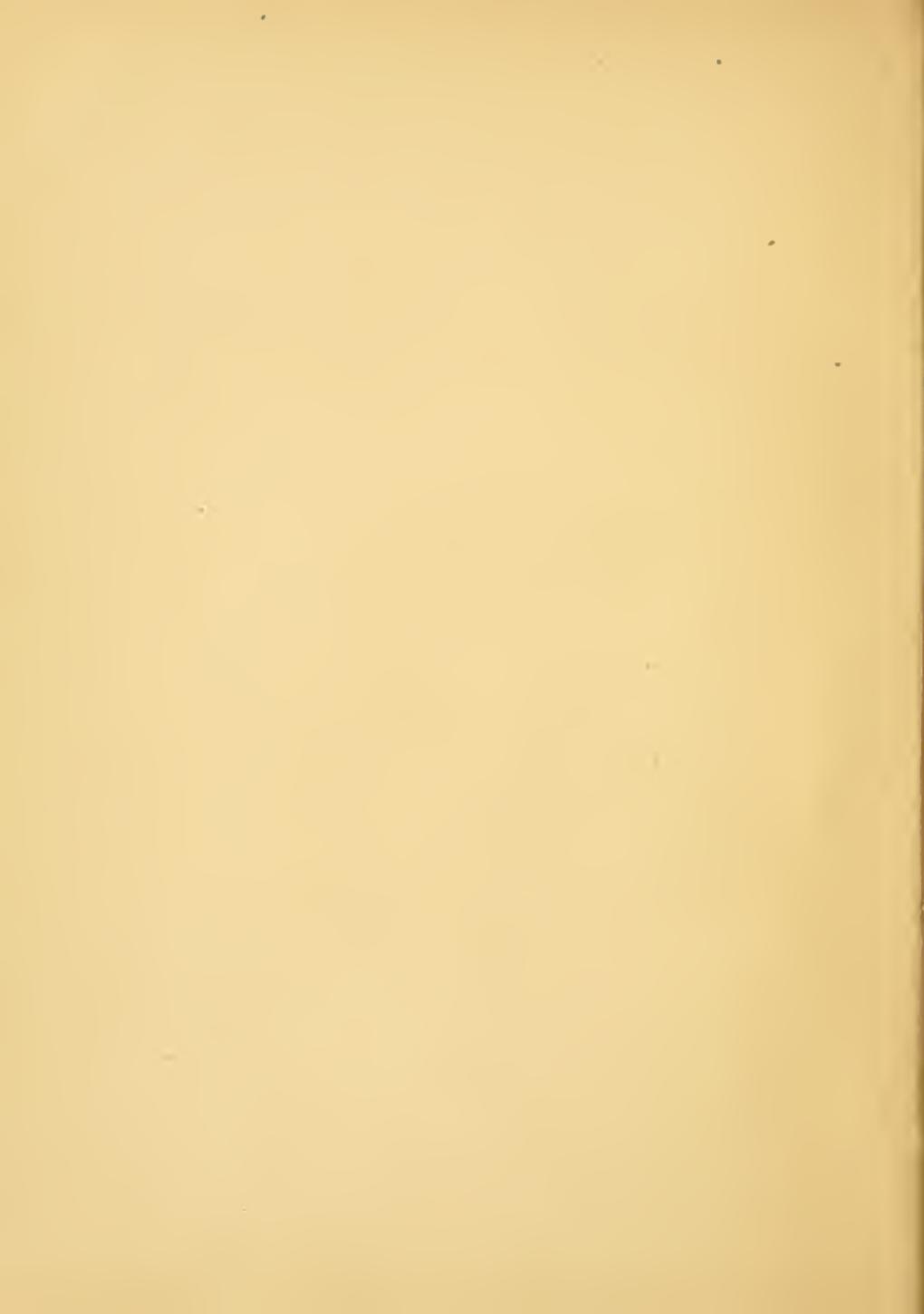








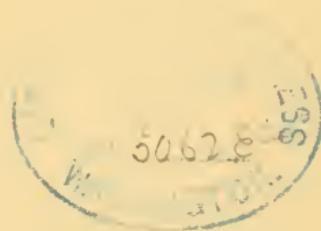




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BELDAZZLE'S

BACHELOR "STUDIES."



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## C O N T E N T S.

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	PAGE
I.—Holiday Sail.....	7
II.—Flow .....	9
III.—Ebb .....	10
IV.—Nilsson .....	12
V.—Off Duty.....	14
VI.—.....	15
VII.—Jennie .....	16
VIII.—Distrust.....	17
IX.—Fate of a Roué.....	18
X.—A Warm Engagement.....	21
XI.—The Pledge.....	22
XII.—Good-Night .....	23
XIII.—Self-Possessed in Patience.....	24
XIV.—Thrice in Church.....	25
XV.—His Justification .....	26
XVI.—To L .....	27
XVII.—In a Barber Shop.....	28
XVIII.—Chance Meeting.....	30
XIX.—To P.....	31
XX.—To R.....	32
XXI.—At Saratoga.....	33
XXII.—In New York.....	33
XXIII.—Up and Down Town.....	34
XXIV.—At Long Branch.....	35
XXV.—In a Stage.....	36
XXVI.—To a Street Band.....	36
XXVII.—In Central Park.....	37
XXVIII.—Near a Beach.....	39
XXIX.—Inquest.....	40
XXX.—Protestation.....	41

	PAGE
XXXI.—Remonstrance.....	42
XXXII.—In January.....	42
XXXIII.—Difference of Taste.....	43
XXXIV.—Different Views.....	46
XXXV.—An Answer.....	48
XXXVI.—Eclipse of the Rose.....	48
XXXVII.—Indiscretion .....	49
XXXVIII.—Overthrow.....	50
XXXIX.—The Atlantic.....	50
XL.—Blessings in Disguise .....	52
XLI.—.....	53
XLII.—.....	54
XLIII.—To Dorothea.....	54
XLIV.—.....	55
XLV.—Engulfed .....	56
XLVI.—Breach of Promise.....	57
XLVII.—Sunday on Fifth Avenue.....	58
XLXIII.—In the Snow.....	58
XLIX.—Servant-Hunting .....	60
L.—At St. Valentine's Day.....	61
LI.—Spring Wind.....	62
LII.—Twilight .....	63
LIII.—Clouds .....	63
LIV.—Unanswered.....	64
LV.—Dawn .....	65
LVI.—Fire at Sea .....	66
LVII.—After Carew.....	66
LVIII.—Blue and Brown.....	68
LIX.—Suggested by an Opera.....	69
LX.—At a Grave.....	70

BELDAZZLE'S  
BACHELOR "STUDIES."

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I.

HOLIDAY SAIL.

A CROSS the bay  
On a holiday  
A yacht the waves divided ;  
Nine men were there  
Without a care.  
Under full sail she glided.

No holiday knew  
The winds that brew

Gales on the yeasty ocean ;  
And full of scowls,  
Hoarse with low growls,  
Storm panthers were in motion.

Beyond the bar  
Sailed those afar,  
Released from work-day duty ;  
But towards the land,  
That panther band  
Leaped curves of deadly beauty.

\* \* \* \*

Keel uppermost  
Adrift and lost,  
At sunset a yacht was swaying ;  
Pantherlike waves,  
O'er watery graves,  
With fiendish glee were playing.

## II.

## FLOW.

WHILE rose the summer evening tide,

And through the deep twilight long continued,

A grand cloud had fondly hovered  
O'er the dazzling beach ; had in a splendor  
Robed itself, unknown even in the East ;  
Nay, the bright and placid face of the object  
Of its love, with warm tears had even ventured

To bedew, without excess ; and sigh-like murmured,

In a gentle wind, its yearning for companionship.

Yet moved or seemed to move the beach  
toward the rival sea.

Then, suddenly, as if intolerant of the triumph

Of a rival, and while that proud competitor  
The fair beach did conduct beneath the wav-  
ing canopy,  
In a storm of grief, of which the huddling  
stars  
Shrank from being witnesses, wasted itself  
In sighs and tears, that cloud, for evermore.

---

## III.

## EBB.

**T**OGETHER, and in such sweet famil-  
arity  
As doth precede a union consummate,  
Had the ocean and the beach listened long  
To the morning concert of the winds, as fell  
the tide.  
And when his betrothed elusive seemed  
And prone by coquettish intervals of ab-  
sence

To become indifferent, no sunlighted jewel,  
No cloud-loaned hue of amethyst, beryl, or  
pearl

Was wanting on his tumultuous breast ; while  
necklaces

Of precious shells he cast upon the loved  
one.

But more and more strove the beach to be  
constant,—

In very caprice constant,—before a morning  
cloud,

Whose fresh face and well-rounded form  
served fancy to attract,

Already touched through those borrowed  
colors of the sea.

And soon, but fruitless effort did the ocean  
find to be

His striving to embrace the beach ; and so  
grew hoarse

With rage, smothered all utterance of sorrow,  
until

Far, very far away, I heard it vented in a  
moan.

## IV.

## NILSSON.

(Traviata).

A DEPT ! when portraying all that man-kind feeleth  
At highest points always brightest shining ;  
So gifted vocally (nay with more than angel tone,  
From metal without alloy), and e'en thyself refining  
By such degree of art, that in thee a precious loan  
Auxiliary, and from voiceless statues, thy classic beauty seemeth ;  
Thou, who dost, with proud and unmatched smile,  
Brilliantly assault, at places separate,  
The shining rival ranks of those immortal nine,

Surely, how to present thyself Madonnawise  
and elevate  
From pure allies above, some hint is thine.  
Nature paused, before thou came to being ;  
and meanwhile  
Her memory refreshed o'er all phases fit to  
define  
Emotions dreamily undefined, all rare forms,  
All art-exploits achieved through discipline,  
To which she had contributed, all sounds of  
storms  
And waves and birds and human voice com-  
bining all—  
Her handiwork recalling, did pause, and then,  
us to inthral,  
Her energies did summon, and then thee.  
After, with interval, and tardily,  
And on condition that thou, Nilsson, should  
improve  
All qualities thus grouped, to show her love,  
Turned to commoner work again.

v.

## OFF DUTY.

WHEN Cupid succumbed,  
Quite entranced by your breath,  
With arrows, your eyes he supplied.  
In a deep dimple laid down,  
Your fair cheek underneath,  
His bow, with his foot, pushed aside.

He dreamed and forgot  
The bow, in sleep over-sound,  
And there at your mouth does it rest.  
But for his arrows, in part,  
Had a long quiver been found  
A quiver right here in my breast.

## VI.

**T**O Him for whom there are no boundaries  
Between eternity and time ; whose only dial  
face  
Is that of nature, and He controls the sun :  
Whose only calendar is “from everlasting to  
everlasting  
I am God”—Oh, what to Him are days  
months, years ?  
Animal life halts not in its routine for these,  
And to Spirit Infinite they are no more than  
lines  
Which longitude denote upon His awful seas,  
Or than those astronomers project against  
His boundless skies ;  
No century wherein He was not—no æon in  
which He will not be ;  
For Him of these, none make a past ; a  
future none,  
In all He is.

*VII.*

## JENNIE.

A S grapes are hidden under leaves,  
And burs the chestnuts cover,  
So Jennie hides her kiss away,  
Kept only for her lover.

As no diamonds at all angles shine,  
Flints not always sparks discover ;  
So Jennie's mind best coruscates  
At converse with her lover.

As music comes from strings and keys,  
And sculptor's work from stony cover;  
So are developed Jennie's smiles  
By her great artist lover.

## VIII.

## DISTRUST.

P RAY well for me,"  
Sighed the false sea  
To a cloud of heavenly station ;  
" Mocking rage and despair,  
I cannot imitate prayer  
In the depth of my desolation."

Then, as it drew near,  
The cloud, losing a tear,  
Said, " See proof of my sympathy ;  
If I utter no prayer,  
For you, sleek-faced there,  
Blame only your treachery."

## IX.

## FATE OF A ROUÉ.

A N angry bee and butterfly,  
Engaged in altercation,  
Agreed the question to submit  
To an open-faced carnation.

When they came into the court,  
In midst of much confusion,  
The butterfly, upon its wing,  
Showed a serious contusion.

“For that I had sufficient cause,”  
Buzzed the bee with acrimony,  
“Because this wretch did steal from me  
A quantity of honey.”

Then between the litigants  
Forthwith did push her way

A blooming rose from far Castile,  
Who most earnestly did say,

"A low and vulgar humbug  
Is this velvet-coated bee;  
But hearken to my statement;  
It shall apparent be.

"Much has he embarrassed me,  
And sought with me to flirt,  
But my broad-winged duenna  
Was always too alert.

"Once, too, he called the butterfly  
A dark-complexioned miller,  
Adding some ancestral fling  
About a caterpillar.

"Devoid of proof his charge is,  
An empty, vain pretence,  
Whereby he would incarcerate  
This, my maidenly defence."

Then instantly surged forward  
A stream of varied hues,  
Of silken-clad avengers,  
To give that bee his dues.

The flowers they tore him wing from limb,  
Impaled him on their briars,  
The fragments fumigating  
With indignation's fires.

These to preserve, his relatives,  
In his miser-hoard, were able.  
As honey, you may find it  
Some day upon your table.

*x.*

### A WARM ENGAGEMENT.

SWEET ! to-night, when we were kneeling  
At the organ-led Amen,  
Tears across your face were stealing :  
Tell me, were you happy then ? ”

“ Ah ! to me that Amen sounded  
Like the seal of pledged love.  
For joy I wept, that it is bounded  
Only with the realms above.”

## xi.

## THE PLEDGE.

THERE was sent to the flowers, one  
morning in May,  
Writ in bright colors, on the neck of a dove,  
A cloud's promise to wear, ere close of the  
day,  
The colors worn by the rose of its love.

When that cloud sank down deep in the west,  
The queen-rose, having a furtive glance  
thrown  
There, saw reproduced upon the cloud's  
breast  
All exquisite hues that had e'er been her  
own.

## XII.

## GOOD-NIGHT.

(IN THE PARLOR.)

N OT audibly,  
How'er I try,  
Can I say  
Good-night.

" Stay but an hour,  
To give me power ;  
I'll whisper, then,  
Good-night."

(ON THE DOOR-STEP.)

" Good-night ! a long, sweet night of peace ! "  
" Nay, parting's pain—or agony,  
Were I to say it audibly,  
Must my smothered sighs release.

“ In silence go ; moving slowly from my sight.  
—By darkness hid thy well-known form—  
I will, in love’s heart-shaking storm,  
I will sigh towards thee, good-night.”

---

*XIII.*

## SELF-POSSESSED IN PATIENCE.

DWARF ! dwarf ! dwarf !  
Was the tree’s bitter sneer,  
Ere spring had developed a leaf.  
The shrub then became  
More shrivelled and sere,  
In silence concealing its grief.

Now spring’s early birds  
Make their sonnets and lays  
To earth’s rare blooms and perfumes ;  
High above the tall tree,  
Is resounding the praise,  
Which the form of shrub-worship assumes.

## XIV.

## THRICE IN CHURCH.

BEFORE a pure baptismal font,  
Lone, at the congregation's front,  
A babe, a priest, prayer with affection warm,  
Then gesture, chaste and cruciform.

The altar shakes with organ blare,  
Two beings standing happy there,  
Hopeful by clasp of hand in hand,  
Together evermore to stand.

Again in pulpit neighborhood,  
Those who inseparable stood,  
The lone babe—man now—left alone,  
The coffin trembling with his groan.

## XV.

## HIS JUSTIFICATION.

RASH, rash, you say to break my heart,  
For one in which mine has no part  
Or sympathy.  
Does not the sea forever beat  
Against the rocks, and then retreat,  
Broken with pain ?  
Does not some storm forever bound  
Against the world's unbroken round,  
And waste in tears ?  
Do not, in heaven, forever smite  
Exploding fires the shield of night,  
Yet without breach ?  
These fires, God's sea, His awful storm,  
Towards these my luckless heart does warm  
In sympathy.

*XVI.*

## TO L.

I HAD a friend whose nature, deep-enveloped  
In the warfare of harsh and unexpected circumstance,  
So underwent a change, that to perilous effort,  
Strange, he was incited ; even to use his closest thoughts,  
As they were fit the time of others to consume ;  
And no other preface was it his wont to make  
Save this :

" Bold; yes, bold. Yet no surprise.  
In the glow of sensibility, between the sledge  
Of censure and the anvil of misfortune,  
That some, even if base, metal should be  
forged  
Is no surprise."

*XVII.*

## IN A BARBER SHOP.

**W**HAT, toupée! vile wig !! and viler  
scratch !!!

To me ! to me !! you advertise,  
What strange notions you do hatch.

Among your dyes ! ”

“ Oui, monsieur, it not so very big,  
About two finger wide across,  
No Frenchman make a better wig  
Than my old boss.”

“ Pierre, at me you seek to poke  
Fun, as you have not done before :  
Bad thing good customers to joke ;  
Do so no more ! ”

"Oui, monsieur; not near as big a spot  
As his—about your age—right there,  
Looking at a cold-cream pot,  
With not much hair."

"That blasé-looking man about my age you  
call!  
Have you no eyes with which to see—  
He's balder than a billiard ball,  
Or winter tree."

"Oui, monsieur, right here along by mine,  
Upon your head please put your palm,  
Where it most begins to shine—  
Monsieur's not calm."

"Look here, my boy! you are again  
Shaving me as one mows a farm.  
I'll have to run to catch my train,  
And am too warm."

## XVIII.

## CHANCE MEETING.

A N atmosphere over perfumed,  
Manners too tentative,—  
Is it certain that, friendly with you,  
One's peace of mind could live ?

A sinuous coil in your hair,  
A reptile light in your eye,—  
Is it certain an unanchoréd heart,  
Would not peril its destiny ?

Hands over diamond lit,  
Dress too *décolleté*,—  
Is it certain incipient trust  
Would not rue introduction-day ?

*XIX.*

TO P.

SUCH lineaments are in thy face,  
As unrequited love might trace,  
Pathos writ in dusky line,  
As dews, not stars, your eyes do shine.

Such shades have presence in thy mien  
As Carthage witnessed in her queen ;  
At times your breathing, growing high,  
Unwittingly becomes a sigh.

This is thine, not my mystery.  
Regard in me fond tendency  
To worship the profound unknown,  
And hold it ever as thine own.

*xx.*

## TO R.

WILL you tell me of possessing  
Some receptacle of treasure,  
Full of fervid sighs and glances  
Too impalpable to measure ?

Have you some record of fractures  
Caused by you in many a heart—  
Ruddy spots, upon whose pages  
Leave no room for graver's art ?

The lineaments of your glorious face  
Show of these no certain sign :  
Do you hide them, as doth merit  
To hide triumph oft incline ?

## XXI.

## AT SARATOGA.

O Gilmore ! .  
Ally of Ar—or Argent-buckle,  
(Buckle of the silver tongue,) .  
Why cease to play,  
When towards you  
*She* chanced to stray ?  
As well dash nectar, nor allow her sip  
From the expectant Juno's lip.

---

## XXII.

## IN NEW YORK.

WHY not call St. Paul's, Fort Washington ?  
For here he worshipped, and here, maybe,  
Was strong and bravest. And at Fort Wash-  
ington  
2

There is a point whereabout the watery tide  
Does ebb and flow, as here the human—  
And as the spheric globules there do  
Shine and pass, so here the human eyes ;  
Then go to transiently mirror other scenes  
Innumerable.

---

## XXXIII.

## UP AND DOWN TOWN.

A HUSBAND who makes his bids at  
the board,  
A wife who harks for the key at five ;  
He hurting his soul, as he gains his hoard,  
She praying that soon his love will revive.

\* \* \* \*

A husband grown as heartless as stone,  
Fit now to lead a “ movement ” on  
“ change ; ”  
A wife with reason at last overthrown ;  
Nor angels, who love, do deem it strange.

*XXIV.*

## AT LONG BRANCH.

I N what measure does the sea  
Accompany thy revery,  
Cliff echoes signalling the staves  
Which mark the rhythm of the waves ?

Thy drooping lid, o'er downcast eye,  
Bedewed with tears a muse might cry,  
Proves how pensive in its strain,  
Thy soul-study's sweet refrain.

No sudden movement would beseem  
The changing phases of thy dream ;  
Confluent tones it must inspire,  
That might employ the heavenly choir.

\* \* \* \*

As well seek boldly to intrude  
Upon a wood-nymph's solitude,  
Conjecturing some fairy's tone  
That there enraptures her alone.

## XXV.

## IN A STAGE.

I HAVE often fancied that, as some faces  
At first do interest, and then grow poor  
and dull,  
So others, that, at first, are only outline-like,  
Do, longer seen, change into the glory full  
Of soul-portraiture.

---

## XXVI.

## TO A STREET BAND.

MUSICIANS ! much charmed am I  
with your strains,  
Here where man chiefly heaps up his gains ;  
And eager to hear, I do tenderly doat  
Upon that long-drawn bugle-note.

Yet unto lakeside and towering cliffs grand,  
It may be well to carry your band."

"Cliffs! brown-stone fronts perform that part;  
And water, herr: mein herr, lo, a water-  
cart."

---

## XXVII.

## IN CENTRAL PARK.

**N**OT on Dante's "desert slope,"  
Nor "impeded on her way,"  
But on a downward bending path,  
Near a spot where fountains play,  
Beheld I, poised against the sky,  
One across whose forehead fair  
Scent-laden winds were lightly dashing,  
Zephyr-gauging locks of hair.

My Beatrice! My Beatrice!  
Such was my inward cry,  
Just as a startled peacock,

Bush-hidden quite near by,  
Vexed the unexpectant air with his appall-  
ing cry.

Unseen, I heard soliloquy  
By her, affright and pale,  
It was : " You disagreeable bird,  
Proud of your gorgeous tail."

On she went unto the lake,  
Unprofanely I went too,  
But not too far to see her turn  
Proudly her neck, and view  
Her profile undulating in unconscious waters  
blue.

*XXVIII.*

## NEAR A BEACH.

DREAMILY dim, the swallow whirls ;  
Dreamily dim, the combing wave  
curls ;

About me, nothing but barren land—  
Barren, and covered with arid sand.  
Ah, that something clearly defined,  
Nor arid, nor barren, I could find !  
And insure its capture.

Creeds, are they wrapped in distorting mist,  
Filling the voids, that doubt might assist ?  
Exploits of heroes in past history's days,  
About these close rolls a substanceless haze.  
Ah, that something clearly defined,  
Mistless and hazeless, I might find !  
And press it with rapture.

Speedily, speedily unto my breast,  
Truth, cameo-like, be drawn to rest,  
If with outline severe, yet with beauty en-  
dowed,  
Fit to be shrined away from the crowd.  
Look, comrades, no aridity here,  
And a June-day—heaven is not more clear—  
Mine, mine for the future.

---

## XXIX.

## INQUEST.

**F**ROM bright glances of the tintless stars  
To rose-leaf shades of rayless hue,  
My eye makes quest for these combined,  
Just as they are found in you.

From tuneful sound of rippling brook  
To bird-notes running the gamut through,  
My ear makes quest for laugh and voice,  
Like those I find in you.

From forms which fairies yield a place,  
To those which fancy brings to view,  
I seek in vain the nameless grace  
That is found alone in you.

---

## XXX.

## PROTESTATION.

A FIRE-FLY, swinging its censer lamp,  
Touched a swallow in its flight,  
Who told it to the thunder-bolts,  
That echoed in awful light.

A rose, in telling its dewy beads,  
By a lark was seen bending down ;  
She sang of its grace to emulous clouds,  
That darkened the skies with their frown.

A breeze to a swaying leaf confessed,  
Overheard by a bee alone,  
Who its secret told to rival winds,  
And then burst forth the cyclone.

*XXXI.*

## REMONSTRANCE.

DARWIN ! Darwin ! what deadly aim  
Have you taken at my vision ?  
Brought down an angel human form  
A subject for derision !

But the gazelle-depths of her eye  
Are, from her soul, diviner.  
Darwin ! Darwin ! I must think you  
Humanity's maligner.

---

*XXXII.*

## IN JANUARY.

WINTRY moon,  
Tell me, I pray,  
What is thy fear  
Or deep dismay ?

See you on earth  
Each new, dead face  
Bloodless become,  
In unwon race ?

Is it, therefore,  
White-faced there,  
Aghast with fear,  
You thread the air ?

---

## XXXIII.

## DIFFERENCE OF TASTE.

F AUST ! Faust ! my organ-man !  
But where is your Marguerite ? ”  
“ Right there, signor, see for yourself :  
She comes straight up the street.”

“ What, that ? you jest, my organ-man ,  
Fair-haired is she, most sure ,  
But a mere novitiate saint would not  
Look nearly so demure.”

“ Then there, signor, right there,  
Upon the other side,  
She who across the pavement  
Seems so fairy-like to glide.”

“ Glide ! ye gods ! but see  
That mincing pony-pace,  
That even Mephistopheles  
Could not compliment as grace.”

“ Well now, signor, look there,  
Up on the avenue—  
*She* has an eye that, far as this,  
Shows real Marguerite-like blue.”

“ Pshaw ! pshaw ! my organ-man,  
Though unseen where you stand,  
Still not less than number eight  
Wears she upon that hand.”

“ You spoke of pony, good signor ;  
See in the phaeton there  
A placid look, as if in fact  
Marguerite’s first peace dwelt there.”

"Placid peace ! my organ-man,  
A most laughable mistake :  
A face composed about as dough—  
Your signora might bake."

"Pardon, signor ; look quickly now :  
In that stage, just next the door—  
There is a face, indeed, poor Faust  
Might religiously adore."

"Loyally, you mean, my man,  
Lest he should find it true ;  
As sure he would, too late, that he  
Was at the mercy of a shrew."

"Signor, you are fastidious,  
No more for you I play."

"Well, then, my nickel-hoarding friend,  
I say to you, Good-day."

## XXXIV.

## DIFFERENT VIEWS.

NOT of antique shield alone, the aspect  
true  
Depends upon the observer's point of view.

## VIEW ON THAT SIDE.

Woman ! dare not to avert thine eye  
From a drear and unhid vacancy,  
Which thy deftly wielded hand  
In loving heart and nature grand,  
With slow and subtle process sure,  
Has arch-wrought. Seek, seek the cure !  
If of thine eye—now cold and clear—  
Beams retinted in love's atmosphere,  
And wistful mien shall testify  
Soul-want of manly sympathy,  
His, his only ; then shalt thou attain  
Strength deeming light, how light, the chain,  
The chain of marriage, which thy thought  
Once held—again shall hold—gold-wrought.

## VIEW FROM THIS SIDE.

Man ! clear vision grows dim in thee,  
Else an angel presence thou should'st see ;  
Not beyond nor above, but close at Thy side,  
Always there to be found ; she who with  
pride

Knew thee new-pledged to love and protect ;  
One bowed now—yes, broken—by austere  
neglect.

Yet as trodden grapes rendering rarest of  
wine,

As fervid fires iron into steel do refine,  
So she, as her hopes more feeble become,  
Grows in sweet spirit adapted for home.  
Reach, reach unto her the confiding hand,  
As when, tender-hearted, you entered love's  
land.

Let her lean on an arm faithfully strong  
Which, as unto its socket, to her doth belong.  
Then shall love's land seem boundless to thee,  
And all azure-skied by sympathy.

*XXXV.*

## AN ANSWER.

TELL me not you are no angel,  
That age your protest will explain ;  
Though the rose may lose its beauty,  
Still its fragrance can remain.

---

*XXXVI.*

## ECLIPSE OF THE ROSE.

A ROSE of the superbest bloom  
Worshipped I this day.  
Beyond its place in my window-seat,  
Unwitting maidens stray.

Its hues aurora-like I deemed,  
'Till among those maidens came  
One, upon whose roseate cheek  
Love's signet-blush did flame.

*XXXVII.*

## INDISCRETION.

BOW to me," whispered the shrub to the rose.

"Wait till next month, my cousin blows;  
Breathe on me," also said the rose in reply.  
The shrub gave assurance, next month it would try.

The breath of the shrub, and the bow of the roses,

Had such result as champagne imposes,  
For when winds of June made waves of the clover.

The roses and shrub were half-seas over.

*XXXVIII.*

## OVERTHROW.

WHAT the clouds in silence gather :  
What, by stealth, revives the flower :  
Congealed on lofty Alpine summits,  
Descends an avalanche in power.

What your heart makes dumb suggestion,  
What your eyes do faintly show,  
By icy speech, devoid of passion,  
Beats me down as with a blow.

---

*XXXIX.*

## THE ATLANTIC.

(*Wrecked last night of March, 1873.*)

MARCH!" cried the controller of winds  
To his hosts, where humanity finds  
Its limit of gaze.

March ! Then the cloud-hosts obeyed,  
And by sullen looks knowledge betrayed  
            Of his awful commands.

He said, " Yonder ship sails fast and free.  
March ! let it know command of the sea  
            To me sole belongs."

Then for days they with majestic step went,  
Their full breasted ranks nowhere rent  
            Forward, but to deceive.

For while March still endured, they deployed  
Thither, hither, sidewise, employed  
            In most stealthy approach.

The pilot beguiled—on the shores rough and  
        bare,  
They cast that huge ship, and left all there  
            As prey to cold and fishes.

And when those hosts, their deadly work  
        through,  
In silvery dress thronged along in review,  
            An April sun was shining.

XL.

## BLESSING IN DISGUISE.

COME," I said to my friend, " and  
forego  
Your soul to sack with questioning vain,  
Whether this or that share to buy or sell."  
" So chasm-like in my life," answered he  
low,  
" This misfortune, that I *must* turn away  
To excitement even if low, yet engaging."  
Still urged I ; and to mountains we went.  
And in a humid chasm, rough, high, and  
gray,  
As we stood, he cried, " Nothing of beauty  
is here ;  
Even the vine in the cleft grows so distant,  
That we distinguish not the hue of its  
bloom."  
But both together we waited, at a point not  
too near,

The afternoon's coming ; and as he seemed  
to awake  
To the billowlike beauty on the opposite  
slopes,  
Wrapped in halo which dimmed but soft-  
tinted  
Vast uncouthness, *both* knew that to make  
The scene acquiescent with a spirit of peace  
And of beauty, the mist from the chasm  
Proceeded.

---

*XLI.*

HE is the brother of girls," the Arabians say,  
When the mind is unsullied and pure as the day.  
"God grant each man sisters"—be every man's prayer,  
"As long as humanity partakes of Thy care."

*XLII.*

PUTS summer in the veins," says the poet, of wine.

But, as against this, answers a good friend of mine,

"Hark to each summons at Bacchus' call,  
And he will incline you towards next fall."

---

*XLIII.*

## TO DOROTHEA.

I N temple-study am I engaged,  
Yet am not an antiquary ;  
The temple many a victim has,  
Still I am not a missionary.

The drapery of this temple falls  
With shining curves and folds ;  
Within, upon a starred throne  
Reason a quiet seat holds.

Its arches holy fires o'erbend,  
And those veins about the shrine,  
The peace which there forever dwells  
In purity's colors entwine.

No false god, no domain of sin,  
Therefore demand correction ;  
Where, in fond hopes, my inmost self  
Worships, nor fears objection.

Stay ! while I seemed in mood to jest,  
Lo, my lips do shake with feeling ;  
Your temple makes a devotee,  
And not far off I am kneeling.

---

*XLIV.*

WE are such stuff as dreams are made  
of,"  
Thus Shakespeare did declare.  
If this be so, a snarling wife  
Must be a bad nightmare.

*XLV.*

## ENGULFED.

O F dew-drops, hanging on neighboring stems,

The converse I chanced to hear ;  
One looked to be a companion for gems,  
And one was no less like a tear.

First one spoke of decking a beauty's brow,  
Or neck, or dimpled, unlaboring hand ;  
Then one of love's pearly flood whispered  
low,  
Or melody's harvest, but both of a dreamy  
land.

Rudely, just then, were both of them hurled,  
By a wind which came rushing fast,  
To waters below, where quick tides curled,  
And irony-toned was the blast.

For tears, even those shed, not when we grieve,  
For hopes, even those that escape not our breath,  
May be a river near by that we do not perceive,  
Whirls the mocking-voiced waters of death.

---

## XLVI.

## BREACH OF PROMISE.

A ROSE unto a violet said,  
As they laid together in their bouquet-bed,  
“Lend me some odor in the coming night,  
And I will give you color bright.”

Then the violet, through the darkened room,  
Flooded the air with sweet perfume.  
Yet rose and violet were clad as before  
When darkness into the daylight wore.

*XLVII.*

## SUNDAY ON FIFTH AVENUE.

THINK you that He who chose the day  
for rest,  
Is better pleased that you feel better dressed?  
Will He who made  
“*Going about doing good*” this life’s walk,  
Approve a crowd straight-marching in pa-  
rade?

---

*XLVIII.*

## IN THE SNOW.

HOW I wonder  
As you go,  
Lightly tripping  
Through the snow.

Berries, out of season now,  
There red-ripe could not become,  
Yet your lips are such, I trow.

Damask rose in vain would seek,  
Surely, there, its vital warmth,  
Yet its blush is in your cheek.

Of bated lustre they must flame  
Love's fires divine, if there they fall,  
Yet your eyes shine quite the same.

How I wonder  
As you go,  
Rare things grouping  
On the snow.

*XLIX.*

## SERVANT-HUNTING.

ONE day into the garden,  
In a capacious, hollowed pearl,  
A fairy drove, and put the flowers  
In an unexpected whirl.

She came with the young fairylets,  
She said, an attendant to choose,—  
A magnificent fellow, fit  
To wear her footman's shoes.

The morning-glory had been such,  
But was going to perdition,  
Each morning drinking too much dew,  
And by noon in poor condition.

She found the flowers quite willing  
While down the paths she ranged,  
And an accommodating family  
One of their members changed.

Hence one finds the tiger-lily,  
With his use of velveteen,  
His spotted coat, and *blasé* look,  
As though he ne'er were green.

And if he takes much dew also,  
As somewhat is suspected,  
Still by his coarse companions  
Is he very much respected.

---

L.

### AT ST. VALENTINE'S DAY.

WHY should love like yours observe  
the date  
Of that season when birds are said to mate.  
As well might rushing stars observe the line  
At which they come within our view ; or cat-  
aracts

The boundaries which are drawn upon the  
shore,  
Or the winds those that geographers define,  
Or all-extending heaven, in its sweep, that  
small part  
Of God's universe where men as mortals start  
Towards love eternal.

---

## L.I.

## SPRING-WIND.

A H, darling breath, so long unknown,  
Across what homeless spaces blown  
Come you to me ?

My winter-worn, yet kindling, breast  
Receives you as some omen blest  
With ecstasy.

LII.

TWILIGHT.

SOMEWHERE from her proper realms  
Issued—all beautified with stars—night,  
To meet her lord, the day; and while  
To such as suits cathedral aisles, the light  
Grew dim, majestic ocean tones did solemnize  
their union.

---

LIII.

CLOUDS.

TO hear the angel choirs  
Far above our sight,  
In silvery robes the clouds  
Throng the aisles of light.

And though they disappear,  
The strains that each one hears  
Are reminders of us absent,  
For they come again in tears.

---

## LIV.

## UNANSWERED.

**N**O fondness in her eye,  
No bloom on yonder tree ;  
This makes my aspiration die,  
That is fit for vacancy.

No feeling in her smile,  
No warmth from yonder star ;  
This my grief cannot beguile,  
That will always be afar.

No trembling on her face,  
No bend in yonder shore ;  
This for hope doth yield no place,  
That so harsh for evermore.

No low reply on her dear breath,  
No stir on yonder sea ;  
This to me is unloved death,  
That the scene of wreck shall be.

---

## L V.

## DAWN.

FAR travelled day to solace night's regret  
For the wan stars who fled at his approach ;  
His new-found treasures in the eastern sky  
did set,  
Shed dewy tears, and kissed her in the dawn.

*L VI.*

## FIRE AT SEA.

A S trusting babes do motherwards from  
danger flee,  
So fled they from the ship devoured by  
flame ;  
Yet all famished and emaciate they became  
Upon the deep, unnurturing bosom of the sea.

---

*L VII.*

## AFTER CAREW.

A SK me no more, where the sunset rays  
O'erflow the boundaries of the days,  
For the golden flood has touched your hair,  
And left its warmest color there.

Ask me no more, where the sparkling dew  
Departs, as stealing, from our view ;  
Re-fallen, it is found beneath your brows,  
And there with diamond-lustre glows.

Ask me no more, where the blue is driven  
Which wild storms expel from heaven ;  
For where your veins their courses trace  
The azure finds harmonious place.

Ask me no more, where the echoes roam,  
Why, going forth sweetly, they turn not home ;  
For the harmonious accents of your voice  
Leave them but a divided choice.

Ask me no more, where the ripples throng,  
When the brook noiseless stealeth along ;  
For your joyous laugh gains at its cost,  
From nature's music nothing is lost.

Ask me no more, where the sunlight glides  
Which shades steal towards on mountain-  
sides ;

Like chequered course it seems to trace  
When smiles chase smiles across your face.

Ask me no more, where melts away  
The crimson flush of deepening day ;  
For the damask of your cheek doth owe  
To morning's loss its warmest glow.

---

*L VIII.*

## BLUE AND BROWN.

**T**O vary them from the violet's hue  
Nature dyed your eyes a deeper blue ;  
And then, to reconcile the flower,  
She gave those eyes a mirror's power.

To vary your eyes from the orbs of night,  
Since all were filled with starry light,  
A leaf its autumn color gave,  
And the light became an amber wave.

## LIX.

## SUGGESTED BY AN OPERA.

VOICE ! that utterest thy first tone  
When other senses are complete,  
O voice that yet art over-fleet  
To go ere life itself is gone !  
In thine own home there sure must dwell  
Sounds that please the Godhead well.

Thou dost compass on the earth  
Hate, joy, love, and ecstasy,  
Wrath, fear, scorn, and irony,  
All of sorrow—all of mirth.  
In thine own home there sure must dwell  
Sounds that please the Godhead well.

Voice ! though thou hold it little gain  
Such sway to have in this cold sphere,  
Tell me, tell me, even here,  
That I shall surely catch thy strain,

'Mid sounds that please the Godhead well,  
Whose harmony no tongue can tell.

---

## LX.

## AT A GRAVE.

FAIR away where ocean rages,  
When no other ear was near,  
Thy most precious "Rock of Ages,"  
I have often seemed to hear.

Oh, if but some mighty river,  
Sounding in this twilight dim,  
Here did run and seem to quiver,  
Through thy soul-assuring hymn.

Nay, some brook, did it but pass,  
Music-taught of mountain pines,  
Might evoke, from reeds and grass,  
Sounds suggesting those dear lines.

But, though this sorrow well may fear  
Grief's sole rule when all is still,  
The monotones are all I hear,  
Of a desolate whippoorwill.

THE END.













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